

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 125501 TOSEC 020178

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ORIGIN EA-10

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APPROVED BY EA MR MILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125501 TOSEC 020178

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 125501 SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO KUALA
LUMPUR CINCPAC CINCSAC CINIPACAF DTD 29 MAY 75

QUOTE:

SECRET STATE 125501

E.O. 11652: GES

TAGS: MAR,TH

SUBJECT: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

REF: A. BANGKOK 9535;B. BANGKOK 9730

KUALA LUMPUR FOR HABIB

1. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH KRIANGSAK'S PROPOSED CONVOCA-
TION TF THE U.S.-THAI WORKING GROUP JUNE 2 TO ZE FOLLOWED
BY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE B-52'S AND
F-111'S AND THE CLOSURE OF UBON. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
TO DO THIS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER BUT THE DELAY IS NOT
INORDINATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR THE
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR DESIRE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE B-52'S AND F-111'S SINCE THE MOVE IS
SECRET

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OPEN TO POTENTIAL MISINTERPRETATION BOTH IN THAILAND AND
ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION. HOWEVER, GIVEN CURRENT THAI
POLITICAL EXIGENCIES AND THE VIEW OF OUR OWN CONGRESS TO-
WARD MEDIA ACCESS TO THAI BASES, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO
OBJECT TO A MEDIA VISIT TO U TAPAO IN CONJUNCTION WITH

THE DEPARTURE OF THE B-52'S. AS FAR AS KRIANGSAK'S PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE F-111'S TO U TAPAO IS CONCERNED, SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE EXTRA COST AND SEVERE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS; WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT

KRIANGSAK MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER A MEDIA VISIT TO KHORAT FOR COVERAGE OF THE DEPARTURE OF THESE AIRCRAFT. (FYI: WE ASSUME THAT, UNLIKE PREVIOUS MEDIA VISIT, ANY SENSITIVE OPERATIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATELY CURTAILED. END FYI.)

3. WITH REGARD TO THE REMAINDER OF THE 7,500 PACKAGE (REF B), NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. WE DO INTEND TO FILL OUT THE 7,500 SPACES THROUGH REDEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL UNITS IN THAILAND, WHICH MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF REDEPLOYMENT OF OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS AND/OR HEAD-QUARTERS CLOSURES. DOD HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE FOR WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERATION ALTERNATIVE MIXES OF AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PORTION OF THE CURRENT INCREMENT, AND YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN A DECISION ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN MADE. WE SEE NO REASON WHY THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE FOLLOWING THE JUNE 2 MEETING CANNOT CONTAIN LANGUAGE WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT REDEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL UNITS AS PART OF THE CURRENT 7,500 REDUCTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. THE REMOVAL OF THESE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS WILL BRING US DOWN TO LEVEL OF 19,500 SPACES, WHICH IS AGREED. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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